



## CATAWBA COUNTY

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### CATAWBA COUNTY PURCHASING SPECIALIST WINS TOP STATE HONOR

Beatrice Abernathy, a Purchasing Specialist with Catawba County, was recently presented with the Billy D. Ray Purchaser of the Year Award by the Carolinas Association of Government Purchasing (CAGP). Abernathy was presented with the award at CAGP's annual awards dinner in Winston-Salem on March 1.

According to the CAGP, the purpose of the Ray Award is to "give appreciation and recognition to public purchasing professionals that have made significant contributions within the past two years to the success of their entities, their profession, and themselves". Abernathy was nominated by Catawba County Purchasing Manager, Debbie Anderson. Nominees must be actively employed in public purchasing and be active CAGP members in good standing.

"Beatrice earned her Certified Local Government Purchasing Officer certification in 2008," Anderson said. "Obtaining this certification was a major accomplishment and demonstrated to Beatrice and others that she does her work in a professional manner. Over the past two years, Beatrice has willingly accepted more responsibilities and has made a significant contribution to the Purchasing Division and the County. Catawba County is fortunate to have her as an employee. She is deserving of this award and recognition."



A "purchaser", as defined for this award, is a government employee performing technical work in the procurement of a variety of supplies, materials, apparatus, equipment, and services. Examples of job functions involved in the duties of a purchaser include: preparing specifications; analyzing purchase order requests; conferring with requisitioning personnel regarding specifications, quantity, and quality of merchandise; conducting (or assisting with) bid openings; soliciting price quotations; evaluating bids and quotations and making recommendations for award; interviewing sales representatives; examining invoices; and maintaining and updating files and information on sources of supply for various commodities.

Abernathy was raised in Hickory, attended the Hickory Public Schools and is a graduate of Hickory High School. She earned an Associate of Arts Degree in Accounting from Catawba Valley Community in 2000. Just two months later, she began work for Catawba County as an Accounting Clerk. In late 2001, she transferred to the position of Purchasing Technician. That position was reclassified as Purchasing Specialist in April 2002, and she has remained in that position for the past nine years.

Abernathy was a charter member of the County's Diversity Team, which promotes diversity awareness among County employees, develops recruitment and retention strategies, works on employee education and develops partnership

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relationships with advocacy groups to support committee activities. During her tenure on that Team, she developed and published a Diversity Events Calendar each month.

As the 2011 winner of the Ray Award, Abernathy received a plaque and a \$650 scholarship for use toward attendance at a CAGP or UNC School of Government sponsored seminar or conference, the annual forum or a sponsored seminar or conference of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, professional certification or recertification fees, tuition for an educational course in which the major subject content is related to the duties and responsibilities of a professional purchaser, or costs associated with any of these activities.

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